15 November 2007

Senator Orrin G. Hatch
United States Senate
104 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510-4402

Sent via Fax: 202.224.6331

RE: Your letter dated 12 October 2007

Dear Senator Hatch:

Thank you so much for your thoughtful response to my request for your intervention on behalf of myself and other terminated members of the Mixed Blood Uintas of Utah and their descendants. I and other terminated Mixed Blood Uintas appreciate your genuine interest and dedication to working for fairness and justice for all the citizens of Utah, and I am grateful that you are willing to look further into the matter of the involuntary termination of our people. While we are willing to follow established protocols, we have been continually stymied in our quest for assistance with obtaining records and other information pertinent to our situation. As you as surely aware, there is likely to be a significant length of time involved in having the BIA research the outcome of the purported Ute tribe termination vote. We will certainly honor your suggestion of sending the BIA a formal request to provide us with a copy of their official records as parties who were directly affected by the enactment of the Ute Partition Act. We will send you a copy of our request letter, and ask that you support that request by contacting the BIA directly on our behalf to emphasize the need for a records search to expedite a determination of our actual status.

Meanwhile, since you expressed an interest in knowing more of the details surrounding the date and nature of the vote to terminate our federal trust status, I invite you to visit our web site (*http://www.undeclaredutes.net/*) to review background information, status reports, individual biographies of some of the 490 illegally terminated members of our group, etc. For more detailed information about the specific events that led up to the implementation of the Ute Partition Act and the people involved, I recommend the scholarly and

authoritative work, *Termination's Legacy: the Discarded Indians of Utah* (R. Warren Metcalf, University of Nebraska Press, 2002).

I must warn you, Senator Hatch: the facts revealed in Professor Metcalf's book show the termination-era congressional and cultural leaders of Utah as people determined to carry out their agenda regardless of the potential of great harm to those affected. I personally think they were acting out of a sincere but horribly misguided belief that termination was the best way of helping the Indians to help themselves. Now that the truth has come to the surface – more than 50 years later – truth that shows exactly what happened to the Mixed Blood Uintas and why, it is easy to see why the local and national political and religious leaders felt and acted the way they did at that time. It is much more difficult understand why only the Mixed Blood Uintas of Utah *remain* terminated. All other tribes terminated under this policy have been restored by legislation. Why were all these other tribes restored? It was phase one of a continuing effort to halt and repair the extensive and continuing damage done by the ill-conceived termination policy. This damage has been repeatedly and thoroughly documented, and has had the effect of ultimately reversing the failed Federal termination policy to the extent that virtually all other terminated tribes have had their federal trust status reinstated. Do the Mixed Blood Uintas deserve anything less?

As a current leader in Congress, and as a champion of human rights and equal treatment under the law, I'm sure you see how shameful this is: the Mixed Blood Uintas were singled out as guinea pigs for a federal program that has since been absolutely repudiated, and now – although all of the other victims of this insidious experiment have had their status restored, the people who have suffered the longest under this horrible policy have yet to be restored to their former standing. The Mixed Blood Uintas did not volunteer for termination; all the other tribes who were terminated have asked for – and been granted – restoration of their trust status. Why this single exception?

As one of the successors to the Utah Congressional delegation of the 1950s and 1960s, I know you must hate to see any members of your constituency suffering needlessly, especially when you have the power to help ease that suffering. When hundreds or thousands are suffering, it must be even more difficult for

you to bear. With your help – particularly your ability to reach others who can make a difference – this suffering could end relatively quickly and the State and community leaders of Utah could regain their reputation of truly caring about everyone who calls Utah "home."

While it is impossible to bring back those who have died from disease and poverty as a result of their wrongful termination, it is still possible to right at least some of the wrongs. This would allow those who remain, as well as the children and grandchildren of the original 490, to regain a little of what was lost and move forward with the hope of being able to survive in the future.

Our attorney, Dennis G. Chappabitty, will work with your staff in Washington, D.C. to schedule a meeting with you for the week of December 7 through 14 to bring you an update on the *Felter v. Kempthorne* civil action. We truly appreciate your willingness to work with us and with Dennis, and we are very grateful for your ongoing support of our efforts.

Thank you again for your kind interest and commitment to helping us sort out this devastating injustice. Your reputation of working for the betterment of Utah and all her people, especially her native people, will be even further enhanced by your efforts on our behalf.

Sincerely,

Oranna Bumgarner Felter
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